

Spring Valley Restoration Project

Vicinity West Hylebos Creek at S. 373rd Street, Federal Way

May 2006

PROJECT UPDATE:

Project Review: The project will return approximately 1,400 feet of degraded creek channel and pasture-land back to its natural state. The creek will be realigned to follow a more natural, meandering path, with shade cover from native trees and shrubs. Creating wetland areas and placing logs will provide additional habitat. A major element of this project will be a new bridge on S. 373rd St. to eliminate flooding across the road and improve fish and wildlife passage through this area.

Staff Changes:

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Project Engineer Steve Fuchs has moved on to lead the SR 167 Project full time. The new WSDOT Project Engineer Michele Britton.

Schedule Changes:

WSDOT and the City of Federal Way met in late November 2005 to discuss construction sequencing and integration of the WSDOT restoration and the City bridge replacement projects. It was determined that construction of both projects in summer 2006 would not be possible due to a number of constraints. Most of the construction for the project will now begin in the spring of 2007, with limited early restoration actions in summer 2006.

Recent Developments:

West Hylebos Creek has "jumped" its channel and changed course so that now most of its water is flowing eastward out into the pasture, flooding the key work areas for the future bridge and stream relocation work. WSDOT and the City are now working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to permit gravel removal work this summer to get the creek back into its former channel so that the work areas will be accessible and free of excess water during the 2007 construction season.

The former Mase Ranch with its guest house and stables is now up for sale by auction with sealed bids to be opened on May 25, 2006. The 5.86 acre property which includes the paved driveway and upland pasture to the east represents the remainder of the original 24.43 acres purchased for the restoration project.

Large Woody Debris (LWD) in the form of stumps with attached root wads have been donated by Miles Sand and Gravel. WSDOT maintenance crews provided the labor and equipment to haul and transport them to an upland area within the project site. Nearly 100 of these LWD structures will provide valuable natural habitat for fish and wildlife while saving the taxpayers money.

Early restoration work is planned for this summer. The Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands will be teaming up with WSDOT restoration crews to control noxious weeds and plant native species within upland areas of the site.

The Spring Valley Restoration project is a joint effort between WSDOT and the City of Federal Way. Both agencies are working closely with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and The Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands as active members of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) assisting with the design. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Ecology, and the Corps of Engineers have also been participating in the TAG.



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**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

